

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A locking device for locking golf clubs in a golf bag comprising:

a first link including a body having a front and a rear opposite said front, said body defining a first link front cutout having a semicircular pattern configured to match a golf club shaft and a first link rear cutout having a semicircular pattern configured to match said golf club shaft, said first link body having a first link forked portion and a first link flat portion, said first link flat portion formed by a first arm proximate said front, said first link forked portion having a second arm and a third arm opposite said second arm forming a first link spacing proximate said rear, said first link including a pair of first link grooves formed in said first link body proximate said first link front cutout and said rear cutout, said first link including a set of first link projections proximate said front and said rear; and

a second link including a body having a front and a rear opposite said front, said body defining a second link front cutout having a semicircular pattern configured to match said golf club shaft and a second link rear cutout having a semicircular pattern configured to match said golf club shaft, said second link body having a second link forked portion and a second link flat portion, said second link flat portion formed by a first arm proximate said front, said second link forked portion having a second arm and a third arm opposite said second arm forming a second link spacing proximate said rear, said second link including a pair of second link grooves formed in said second link body proximate said second link front cutout and said rear cutout, said second link including a set of second link projections proximate said front and said rear; wherein said first link and said second link are configured to enclose said golf shaft between said first link rear cutout and said second link front cutout, said

second link flat portion configured to insert into said first link spacing and a first link rear projection configured to slidably dispose in a second link front groove, and a second link front projection configured to slidably dispose in a first link rear groove; and

at least a third link including a body having a front and a rear opposite said front, said body defining a third link front cutout having a semicircular pattern configured to match said golf club shaft and a third link rear cutout having a semicircular pattern configured to match said golf club shaft, said third link body having a third link forked portion and a third link flat portion, said third link flat portion formed by a first arm proximate said front, said third link forked portion having a second arm and a third arm opposite said second arm forming a third link spacing proximate said rear, said third link including a pair of third link grooves formed in said third link body proximate said third link front cutout and said rear cutout, said third link including a set of third link projections proximate said front and said rear; wherein said third link and said second link are configured to enclose another golf shaft between said second link rear cutout and said third link front cutout, said third link flat portion configured to insert into said second link spacing and a second link rear projection configured to slidably dispose in a third link front groove, and a third link front projection configured to slidably dispose in a second link rear groove.

2. (Original) The locking device of claim 1 wherein said first link and said second link are joined and configured to rotate about an axis centered about a central axis formed by said first link rear cutout and said second link front cutout, said central axis being coincident with a longitudinal axis of said golf club.

3. (Original) The locking device of claim 1 wherein said first link and said second link are configured to rotatably align to encircle said golf club and rotatably align to allow for one of removal of said golf club and insertion of said golf club.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) The locking device of claim 1 wherein a plurality of links are configured to form chain of links that are configured to releasably lock a plurality of golf clubs around each shaft of said plurality of golf clubs.

6. (Original) The locking device of claim 5 wherein an additional link comprises an eyelet opposite a cutout, wherein said eyelet is configured to overlap with another eyelet and configured to receive a bolt of a padlock, wherein said chain of links is formed and locked together.

7. (Original) The locking device of claim 6 wherein said chain of links is coupled to a golf bag.

8. (Original) The locking device of claim 1 wherein said first link and said second link include stops coupled to said set of grooves, said stops configured to encircle said golf club at a predetermined size to prevent damage to said golf club shaft.

9. (Original) The locking device of claim 1 wherein said first link cutout and said second link cutout are lined with a material configured to retain said golf club shaft.

10. (Original) A locking device for locking golf clubs in a golf bag comprising:  
a first link including a body having a front and a rear opposite said front,  
said body defining a first link front cutout having a semicircular pattern configured to  
match a golf club shaft and a first link rear cutout having a semicircular pattern  
configured to match said golf club shaft, said first link body having a first link front flat  
portion and a first link rear flat portion, said first link front flat portion formed by a first  
arm proximate said front, said first link rear flat portion formed by a second arm  
proximate said rear, said first link front flat portion and said first link rear flat portion  
being non-planar, said first link including a pair of first link grooves formed in said first  
link body proximate said first link front cutout and said first link rear cutout, said first  
link including a set of first link projections proximate said front and said rear; and

a second link including a body having a front and a rear opposite said  
front, said body defining a second link front cutout having a semicircular pattern  
configured to match a golf club shaft and a second link rear cutout having a semicircular  
pattern configured to match said golf club shaft, said second link body having a second  
link front flat portion and a second link rear flat portion, said second link front flat  
portion formed by a first arm proximate said front, said second link rear flat portion  
formed by a second arm proximate said rear, said second link front flat portion and  
second first link rear flat portion being non-planar, said second link including a pair of  
second link grooves formed in said second link body proximate said second link front  
cutout and said second link rear cutout, said second link including a set of second link  
projections proximate said front and said rear, wherein said first link and said second  
link are configured to enclose said golf shaft between said first link rear cutout and said  
second link front cutout, said second link front flat portion configured to couple with  
said first link rear flat portion and a first link rear projection configured to slidably

dispose in a second link front groove, and a second link front projection configured to slidably dispose in a first link rear groove.

11. (Original) The locking device of claim 10 wherein said first link and said second link are configured to be coupled repeatable as a plurality of links.

12. (Original) The locking device of claim 10 wherein said first link and said second link are joined and configured to rotate about an axis centered about a central axis formed by said first link rear cutout and said second link front cutout, said central axis being coincident with a longitudinal axis of said golf club.

13. (Original) The locking device of claim 10 wherein said first link and said second link are configured to rotatably align to encircle said golf club and rotatably align to allow for one of removal of said golf club and insertion of said golf club.

14. (Original) The locking device of claim 10 wherein a plurality of links are configured to form a chain of links that are configured to releasably lock a plurality of golf clubs around each shaft of said plurality of golf clubs.

15. (Original) The locking device of claim 14 wherein an additional link comprises an eyelet opposite a cutout, wherein said eyelet is configured to insert into a link cavity and configured to receive a bolt of a padlock, wherein said chain of links is formed and locked together.

16. (Original) The locking device of claim 15 wherein said chain of links is coupled to a golf bag.

17. (Original) The locking device of claim 10 wherein said first link and said second link include stops coupled to said set of grooves, said stops configured to encircle said golf club at a predetermined size to prevent damage to said golf club shaft.

18. (Original) The locking device of claim 10 wherein said first link cutout and said second link cutout are lined with a material configured to retain said golf club shaft.